



Speech By  
**Samuel O'Connor**


**MEMBER FOR BONNEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Digital Driver's Licence**

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.06 pm): In 2023, all Queenslanders should be able to get a digital driver's licence. Whether you are going to the bottle-o, making a visit to 'Uncle Dan's', or going to a pub or a nightclub and having your ID scanned for entry—it has been a few years, thankfully, since I have needed to have that done—or any other situation where you need photo identification, you should be able to obtain it digitally. It is especially important for that one mate we all have who has to fumble for a passport, who continually loses their ID or who gets stuck outside and cannot go in with everyone else.

For many of us, so much of our life is digital—whether it is our bank card, concert tickets, movie tickets or plane tickets. So many things are digital in this day and age. The government agrees, because half a decade ago, in 2018, the state government said 'it could be an option soon'. The Labor Party has a very different definition of 'soon' to most people. Since that announcement five years ago, in September 2019 a trial was announced for Maryborough and Hervey Bay. From March to September 2020 the trial did occur. In April 2021 there were media reports that the trial could be rolled out across all of Queensland. Then in February 2022 the transport minister announced that Townsville would get the licences by the end of the year. Then at the end of the year in 2022 we saw reports that the Townsville rollout had been delayed, and there has been no action since.

I hate comparing us to New South Wales, especially when they are doing better than us, but in New South Wales, 4.4 million people have a digital driver's licence. That is three-quarters of all eligible people in that state. They are looking to add Medicare cards to their digital wallet as well. Queensland does not even have a digital wallet app. The government has not rolled it out. In 2023 you should not have to carry around a piece of plastic to identify yourself.

Digital licences should be opt-in, of course. No-one is going to force anyone to get one, but they should be an option. It is particularly important for young Queenslanders because, as I said, so much of our life is digital. Queenslanders expect that they should have a digital driver's licence. I call on the state government to get this rollout underway and to deliver what they announced half a decade ago.